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## COMMANDING OFFICER

LtCol Hank Lutz

## EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Maj Marvin Norcross

## SERGEANT MAJOR

SgtMaj Angela Maness

## H&S COMPANY

1st Lt Kevin Collins

## SUPPORT COMPANY

CWO 4 Dan Fink

## EMBEDDED PARTNERING TEAM

Capt Victor Kamantauskas

## MT COMPANY A

Capt Everett Ledman

## MT COMPANY B

Capt Matthew Neely

## ENGINEER COMPANY

Capt Kevin Ritchie

## FAMILY READINESS OFFICER

SSgt Andrew McCormack

## FROM THE CO

Dear Friends and Families,

I am happy to report that we are rapidly coming to the end of the pre-deployment training package here at Twentynine Palms. In about a week, the Marines and Sailors will be returning home for some well-deserved time off; but before they do, I wanted to share with you some of the challenges and accomplishments the battalion has seen since the last newsletter.

The battalion departed the Pohakuloa Training Area on 29 June and immediately upon arriving at Twentynine Palms, we started the Enhanced Mojave Viper (EMV) training program. The program started with classroom instruction on convoy operations, command and control systems, employment of crew-served weapons, and tactical logistics operations. This quickly transitioned into field exercises incorporating logistics convoys and life fire weapons ranges to build proficiency and confidence in our skills and our equipment. The battalion has performed well in all of the training events, and they continue to impress the instructors and evaluators here at EMV.

The living conditions here at Camp Wilson are austere, but they meet all of our basic needs. The training days have been long and with harsh desert climate and temperatures in the triple digits, it has been challenging to keep a high energy level throughout every training event. However, the Marines and Sailors of CLB-3 have consistently demonstrated their commitment to excellence each and every day through their motivation and hard work. We are now preparing for our Mission Rehearsal Exercise that will incorporate all of the skills we have developed thus far, and it will also serve as the culminating event for EMV.

Later in the newsletter, the companies of the battalion will highlight some of the specific training they have received during EMV and their overall perspective on the training program. We have also included the names of those Marines and Sailors that were promoted during the month of July in order to recognize this significant accomplishment of attaining



the next rank. In closing, know that I am very proud of the Marines and Sailors of the battalion for their performance in the past two months of rigorous training, and I am confident that we will be successful on our upcoming deployment. I thank you all for your continued support, and I hope you all have a happy and safe summer.

Semper Fidelis,  
LtCol Hank Lutz

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## FROM THE SGT MAJ

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Aloha CLB 3 Ohana,

As I thought about the topics I wanted to share with you in this edition of the newsletter, it occurred to me that you might appreciate a few pictures of what your Marines and Sailors are doing. The Battalion Commander and I have had the opportunity to observe most of the training events here at Twenty-nine Palms. CLB-3 is grasping the concept of team work, and you will see it in these pictures. The pictures, while entertaining, fall short of truly illustrating how hard your Marines and Sailors have worked in this hot Mojave Desert.

I think you would agree with me when I say that their long hours and hard work has finally paid off. I am impressed with their daily activities, their attitude about their tasks at hand, and their commitment to a cause greater than themselves.

These young men and women have

given so much in support of this battalion. Eager to share their experience and talents, they are now reaping the benefits of a 60 day predeployment work up. Teamwork and unity have emerged from the same individuals wearing this uniform.

As we prepare for our transition back to Okinawa and Hawaii, I have a special request for you family members. As your Marine and Sailor returns home to you in the next week or so, please remember that he/she has not been driving a privately owned vehicle for over sixty days. This may present a problem especially for our Okinawa Marines. Please help your Marine and Sailor gradually ease back into such activities as driving. We want to have a safe and enjoyable block leave period.

For our Hawaii families, please keep the date of Wednesday September 1<sup>st</sup> available because we have planned a Battalion Beach Party/Family Day and hope to see you all there.



As we near the end of our training here at Twenty-nine Palms, CA, I would like to say Mahalo for all the support you have provided to this Battalion. Your prayers for safe training and travels have been heard.

Sincerely,

Sergeant Major Angela Maness



# HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE COMPANY

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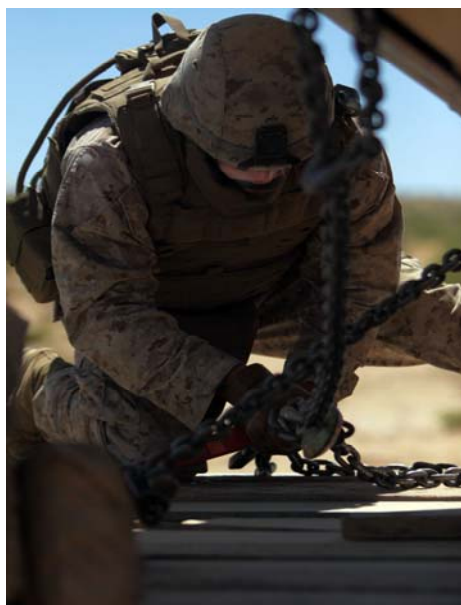
Hello Families and Friends of Headquarters and Service Company,

Since our last newsletter, we've continued our intense training schedule in preparation for our deployment that is just around the corner. While all of the Marines and Sailors have demonstrated their ability to function in the field, I would like to recognize a few that have stuck out of the crowd and emerged as some of our top performers.

Sergeant Robert Torres from our Military Police Platoon was the sole recipient of the Battalion Commander's coin for his outstanding performance and leadership during our field exercise. At the same time, Sergeant Louis Henriquez also from our Military Police Platoon received a Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) coin from the Battalion Sergeant Major. These coins were presented to our deserving Marines during a Battalion formation marking the end of our training at PTA.



During July, while at Twenty Nine Palms, Camp Wilson, CA the Battalion held the NCO of the Quarter and Marine of the Quarter boards. Our Company nominated Corporal Nicolas Wesley, from the S-1 Administration Shop for the NCO of the Quarter and Lance Corporal Zachary Moore, from Landing Support Platoon, for Marine of the Quarter. Both Marines excelled above their respective competition and took their respective boards.



Also, during our Enhanced Mojave Viper training at Camp Wilson, CA, Cpl Melvin Peyton, from our Military Police Platoon was selected as the CLB-3 nominee for Meritorious Sergeant. The Regimental board will be conducted during the last week of July. Good luck to Cpl Peyton.

I would like to thank the family and friends of our Marines and Sailors who support men and women who have been giving their maximum effort during this long training cycle. Believe it or not, you make a difference in their lives and inspire them to be what they are today, and for that I thank you.

Semper Fidelis,  
1stLt Kevin F. Collins

Dear H&S Company Friends and Family,

First off, I know your 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration was not the same without your Marine or Sailor; that being said, I hope you still made the best of it and you and your family had as much fun as you could.

The Marines and Sailors have been working hard these past two months in preparation for the Battalion's future deployment. We have sharpened our physical skills as well as our technical expertise. As always, the Marines and Sailors of our Company are the backbone of the battalion and are in demand to support battalion operations as well as maintain a high level of individual proficiency.



Our key mission for these next few months prior to deployment is to maintain the knowledge and skills we have refined in the past two months. As I close this message, I would like to thank you again for your support and standing behind your Marine or Sailor and giving them the strength that they need to excel.

Sincerely,  
1stSgt Shayne P Watwood



# SUPPORT COMPANY

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Dear Family and Friends of Support Company,

Aloha! I have been privileged to lead your Marines these last few weeks here at Mojave Viper in Twentynine Palms, California. As you well know we have been conducting essential training in advance of our deployment. Though we have been challenged by the heat, we have made significant advancement in our tactics and procedures.

You continue to play a vital role in the strength and well being of our company as you support your Marine. The safety of your Marine is my utmost concern, and I am committed to doing everything in my power to insure that every Marine in Support Company is well trained and continues to be safe.

Your Marines have been very busy attending classes and working long hours repairing equipment here at Twentynine Palms. The Marines have also been as-

sisting the Mojave Viper Support Detachment with equipment repairs, conducting live firing ranges to refine their weapons handling skills and conducting vehicle recovery operations training. Now as we head into the next phase of training. I would just like to say that we appreciate the support you have provided and that we are looking forward to getting back home to Kaneohe.

Thank you for your service to your Marine, our company and our Nation.

Semper Fidelis,

CWO2 Ron P. Claver



# EMBEDDED PARTNERING TEAM

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Family and friends of Embedded Partnering Team,

I would like to take a moment to introduce myself. I am Capt Victor Kamantaukas (Capt K) and joined the team at PTA as the Embedded Partnering Team (EPT) Officer In Charge. We hit the ground running here in Twentynine Palms immediately focusing on the task at hand: to become technically and tactically proficient at advising and mentoring foreign military forces'. We have selected Sgt Castille to provide you with his first hand insight into our training here.

Sgt Aubrey W. Castille is a Logistical Advisor/Mentor with the CLB-3 EPT. During his time here at EMV, Sgt Castille has participated in several training exercises and courses such as BAT, Foreign Advisor Training Group, and Live Tissue training. As a Landing Support Specialist, Sgt Castille brings pertinent logistical aspects to better educate and prepare the members of the EPT for the upcoming deployment in which each Marine will have to server as subject matter expert in a vast array of military occupational specialties. The Mission of the EPT is to advise and mentor the Afghan National Army.

Sgt Castille feels that the training at EMV has opened his eyes; now its time to seek self improvement. He also states that this environment has brought Marines out of there comfort zone, but Marines quickly adapt and over come which will better prepare them for future endeavors.

The EPT has trained none stop since day one. All training has been scheduled on a strict timeline. This has ensured the team has had ample time to train on all aspects of combat service support and foreign advisor techniques. Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued support for our Marines and Sailors. Until next time...

Victor T. Kamantaukas

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*Cpl. Charles Carder, Embedded Partnering Team designated marksman and tactics mentor, CLB-3, provides security during a field training exercise at MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif.*



# MOTOR TRANSPORT ALPHA COMPANY

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## Motor Transport Alpha Company

Aloha family and friends, this time from Twenty-nine Palms, California! Wow! A lot has happened since the last newsletter. Let me start with telling you that the Motor Transport Company is now actually two different companies, Alpha Company, and Bravo Company. I am the Company Commander for Alpha Company and Capt Matthew Neely is the Company Commander for Bravo Company. This was done to help set the battalion up for success during the upcoming deployment, so now instead of one awesome company there are now two.

Currently, we are participating in Enhanced Mojave Viper 5-10. What is that, and why are you there you might ask? Well, the Marine Corps Base here at Twenty-nine Palms, California is not only a home station for some units in the Marine Corps it is also a huge training area that allows your Marines and Sailors to do just about everything in training that they will do in a combat zone. Forces from the ground combat element, air combat element, and combat service element come together to receive training in our respective duties and train together for the future deployment to Afghanistan.

This is an awesome opportunity for everyone involved because it allows us to do some training that can't be replicated anywhere else in the world. So far, the Marines and Sailors have conducted a lot of weapons shoots, vehicle recoveries, call for indirect fire from artillery, conducted long distance convoys, transported over 40 tons of supplies, safely driven thousands of miles, and moved over a thousand passengers. Your Marines and Sailors are better prepared for deployment now than they were seven weeks ago when we all came together for the first time. I am still in awe at all that they have accomplished and it makes me proud to be their Company Commander. I want to thank you all for your continued support of your loved ones, it really has made a difference and we can tell, so please – keep the support coming! Until next time, “Mahalo and Aloha”!

Semper Fidelis,  
Capt Everett Ledman



The sun rises on the Marines and Sailors preparing to conduct the Motorized Operations Course.



This is the very 1<sup>st</sup> Combat Logistics Patrol at Twenty-nine Palms, Ca for Motor Transport Alpha Company.



# MOTOR TRANSPORT BRAVO COMPANY

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Family and Friends of Motor Transport Bravo Company,

I am Captain Matthew Neely, Company Commander of the newly formed Motor Transport Bravo Company. It has been my pleasure to join the ranks, and train with the Marines of Motor Transport through the EMV training evolution. As a new face around here, I am thoroughly impressed with the motivation, work ethic, and the caliber of Marines assigned to Bravo Company.

The Marines have been sweating through the 115 degree heat of Twentynine Palms, California, working long hours to prepare for the upcoming deployment. Some of the highlights of the training have been the crew served weapons ranges, where the Marines gained proficiency in firing various types of machine guns from vehicles. Another training opportunity has been operating the Marine Corps' newest vehicle, the Mine resistant All Terrain Vehicle or commonly known as the MATV. The focus of training at EMV has been placing the Marines in difficult situations in order to allow them to refine the operating procedures in a safe and controlled environment. The "Coyotes" of the EMV staff have been evaluating and providing feedback to each of the platoons throughout the exercise.

By the time you read this, your loved ones will be wrapping up EMV and preparing to depart back to Japan (a few for Hawaii) for some much deserved time off. I look forward to meeting all of the family and friends once we return. In closing, I would like to wish a happy birthday to the following Marines of Bravo Co that "celebrated" their birthday during the month of July:

PFC Quinterosescobar	LCpl Laurence	Sgt Cabral
PFC Csoka	LCpl Perkins A.J.	Sgt Tomaszewski
LCpl Jackson K. D.	Cpl Cuellar	

Semper Fi,  
Captain Matthew Neely



Sgt Bishop teaching a class to the Marines of 1st Platoon, Bravo Co.



Conducting one of the machine gun "live fire" training evolutions.

Greeting friends and families of Motor Transport Bravo Company,

On behalf of the Company Commander Captain Matthew Neely and the leadership of Motor Transport Bravo Company, we would like to wish you all well and thank you for all of the support and dedication you give to your Marines, Sailors, and our Marine Corps. Since joining the company it has been my pleasure to lead and train with the Marines and Sailors of Bravo Co.

This last month your Marines and Sailors have been very busy sweating it out in the extreme heat of the Mojave Desert on the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, CA participating in EMV. The EMV exercise is the last phase of our pre-deployment training. Your Marines and Sailors have received many classes teaching them how to effectively do their jobs and operate in a hostile environment during both day and night. They have also conducted numerous convoy operations and live fire exercises further honing and perfecting their skills in preparation for our upcoming deployment. At the completion of EMV, the Marines and Sailors of Bravo Co. will be ready and fully trained to handle what lies ahead.

By the time you read this newsletter your Marines and Sailors will be getting ready to return to their home stations (Hawaii and Okinawa). Soon after that they will be taking some much deserved leave to come home to you and spend time with friends and family before the deployment.

1stSgt Palos





# ENGINEER COMPANY



Left to right: The workshop at 29 Palms, Minesweep training, Marines move to help simulated casualties during 1st Aid training

To the Families and Friends of Engineer Company,

To bring you a more focused picture of what the company is up to here in Twentynine Palms, California, we have selected two of our standout Marines to provide some insight into the training. They represent the efforts of all the Marines and Sailors in the company, enduring long hours and high temperatures in preparation for deployment.

Lance Corporal Joseph Ramey is one of our Combat Engineers, from Liberty, Indiana. His contributions include a detailed 3-D terrain model of the base here, which is now being used by the entire battalion for mission planning. LCpl Ramey also assisted in the creation of improvised screens for our vehicle-mounted turret gunners, providing enhanced protection from both the elements, and the enemy. His efforts, based on experience from a previous deployment to Iraq, highlight his initiative and the ability of our Combat Engineers to think outside the box. “There is a better understanding of how to improve what Marines are doing with each event being critiqued,” says LCpl Ramey, referring to the strict evaluation and grading procedures everyone goes through during the smaller exercises that make up EMV.



Lance Corporal Aaron Hulett is one of our Vehicle Operators, from Smithville, Missouri. His job is crucial to our ability to meet the demands of the training exercise and will continue to be vital to mission accomplishment in Afghanistan. Being in a Combat Logistics Battalion means that our up-armored motor vehicles will be a part of every single mission, and LCpl Hulett’s attention to detail and adherence to procedures will directly contribute to accomplishing the mission while saving lives. “More intense” is how he describes the training at Twentynine Palms, where he makes an effort “to cross-train and contribute to the overall mission”, understanding that teamwork between the various military occupational specialties in the company is our main strength.



Despite the elements and a busy schedule, the Marines and Sailors of Engineer Company continue to maintain the momentum. Our culminating event for EMV is just around the corner, and beyond that lies our return trip to Hawaii or Okinawa, and shortly thereafter, block leave. We will keep you posted...

Capt Kevin R. Ritchie



to right: Marines establish security in Hawaii, measure and cut material at 29 Palms, and man a vehicle mounted machine gun



# Where in the heck is 29 Palms???

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Twentynine Palms is the home to the world's largest Marine Corps Base. It is the premier training facility in the world for Marine operations and draws military personnel from all over the world for Combined Arms Exercises.

The two-fold mission of the Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command [MAGTFTC] is to operate the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center for live fire combined arms training that promotes readiness of operating forces; and provide facilities, services, and support, responsive to the needs of tenant commands, Twentynine Palms is the premier live-fire base in the Marine Corps. Each year roughly one-third of the Fleet Marine Force and Marine Reserve units participate in the base's training exercise program. These training exercises involve every weapons system in the Marine Corps' arsenal, from small arms to attack aircraft. They are absolutely essential to maintaining high levels of readiness of the U.S. Marine Corps to fight and defend U.S. National interests.

The Combat Center at Twentynine Palms occupies 932 square miles, or

596,000 acres of the southern Mojave Desert. The Combat Center is three-quarters the size of Rhode Island. Such a sizable land area is essential to the conduct of realistic air/ground combat training exercises.

The Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (aka The Combat Center) is located in the Morongo basin. Within the Morongo basin are located the towns of Morongo Valley, Yucca valley, Joshua tree and Twentynine Palms, the largest being Yucca valley. The Morongo Basin is centrally located in Southern California in the "high" desert region of the Mojave Desert. The area encompassing Twentynine Palms is the Morongo Basin and is classified as having an arid, upland desert climate. The summer months are characterized by high temperatures, low humidity and clear, sunny days. While the average annual temperature is 67 degrees, temperatures occasionally reach 120 degrees in the summer and drop to 15 degrees in winter. Average annual precipitation is about four inches, most of it occurring as rain from July to January. Some freezing rain and snow does occur during the winter at higher elevations.



*MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND TASK FORCE TRAINING CENTER*

The terrain consists of steeply sloped mountains with flat intervening valleys that are oriented northwest-southeast. Relief is moderate, with elevations ranging from 1,800 to 4,500 feet. Most mountain segments have approximately 2,000 feet of relief from the valley edge to their summits. There are also several dune areas, lava flows, and dry lakes that collect water during brief periods of heavy rain.



## FROM THE CHAPLAIN

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There is a Saudi Arabian Proverb that states, "Sunshine without rain makes a desert." Since we are now here in the desert, away from our family, friends, and the simple amenities of life, I thought I would take a little time to point out the blessings that can come from "this time in the desert."

Those of you here with me in the desert may be thinking there is no way there is a blessing in this. You're probably considering how immeasurably hot it is, or how we are constantly dirty from the sand and dirt, that there is no shade for relief from the sun, the lines are long, the phone service is horrible, and we miss our families. Those back at K-Bay and Okinawa are probably thinking about how much they miss their spouse or loved one, how it is just easier when he or she is here.

It's easy to focus on the negatives, especially in such an austere environment or when we are lonely and separated from our loved ones by so many miles. But there can be blessings if you choose to look for them.

For some this may be their opportunity to finally start practicing their faith more. Look at the prophets, even Jesus himself; they all had their desert experience that drew them closer to God. For others this may be your time to finally shine in their MOS. You've done all the schools, all the training, but now

you get to actually put all of that into practice.

Our family and loved ones in Hawaii and Okinawa, this may be your opportunity to take up a new hobby that you've been interested in, or to refine your skills for those new roles you will take on when your loved one deploys. Perhaps this is your opportunity to spend much needed time with friends that you just didn't have time to do while your spouse is at home.

For some, perhaps it's your chance to work on your marriage. Marital separations, for whatever reason, are never the optimal choice, but they can serve a purpose. Maybe your marriage has hit a rough spot and you both needed this short break. You can take this time to regroup and look at things from a new perspective, even talk with a counselor or chaplain one on one about some things you would like to change about yourself or something that can improve your marriage. Those marriages that are prospering, this is your opportunity to realize how wonderful the homecoming is going to be.

Long separations isn't the favorable choice for relationships, but that doesn't mean there aren't things you can't do to strengthen your relationship. I relentlessly stress the importance of writing "love" letters to your spouse or significant other. Phone calls are great,



and emails lift our spirits, but there is nothing more intimate or personal than a handwritten letter to the person you love. Keep a weekly diary to share with your spouse or special someone. This will speak volumes to them. Remind that person of the reasons you fell in love with them. This alone can begin to heal wounds even in some of the most damaged relationships.

For our single folks, it is equally important that you keep in contact with your family and friends. Again, letters are a great way to do this. When I'm deployed I enjoy the phone calls and emails, but nothing can compare to someone handing me a letter from family and friends back home.

So, if you are in a desert place right now, literally or figuratively, I encourage you to find the blessings and the opportunities that surround you. What makes the desert beautiful is that somewhere it hides a well.

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## CLB-3 IS ON FACEBOOK !!!!

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You read it right, CLB-3 is now on Facebook!! We will be deploying with a couple of Combat Correspondents who are going to help keep our page up to date with photos and stories from Afghanistan. Of course I will also continue to include information on events happening right here on Oahu. To find our page, simply click on the search button and type in Combat Logistics Battalion 3. Don't try to use CLB-3 or you will

not get the right page. Once there simply click on the "like" button and you will get automatic updates to the changes we make on the page. We hope that this will be a great way for our families and friends back here to see what we are doing while deployed. If you have comments or suggestions, please contact you FRO and have them forward the information to SSgt McCormack. Enjoy.





# PICTURES FROM 29 PALMS CALIFORNIA

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# MORE PICTURES FROM 29 PALMS CALIFORNIA

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